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Monday, December 18, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

HONG CHAU HAS ALREADY WON

The 'Downsizing' star talks about her Golden Globe nomination. 19

Should you be investing in cryptocurrency? 22

Eli's big game not enough for Giants. 23

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GET OFF MY TAIL!

Tailgating makes traffic worse, but MIT researchers have a solution. 4

GETTY IMAGES

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MORGAN ROUSSEAU, MANAGING EDITOR

An early spring? A new law making it illegal to wear backpacks on a crowded train? How about a Trump impeachment? The new year is just around the corner and we want to know: What's on your 2018 wishlist for New York City and the rest of the nation? Email **Letters@metro.us** or tweet **@Metronewyork using the hashtag #MetroWishList.**

GOP CONFIDENT TAX BILL WILL BECOME LAW

1 Top U.S. Republicans said they expected Congress to pass a tax code overhaul this week, with a Senate vote as early as Tuesday and President Donald Trump aiming to sign the bill by week's end. John Cornyn, the No. 2 U.S. Senate Republican, said in an interview on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday that he was "confident" the Senate would pass the legislation, "probably on Tuesday." Republican Representative Kevin Brady said he believed his party had the votes to pass the bill. "I think we are headed — the American people are headed — for a big win on Tuesday," Brady, the House of Representatives' top tax writer, said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo." "We've worked hard to make sure that those strange Senate rules don't hang this up in any way," Brady added. "I am confident that's the case."

US TIP-OFF HELPED RUSSIA HALT TERRORIST ATTACK

2 Russian President Vladimir Putin telephoned President Donald Trump to thank him for a tip-off that helped prevent a terrorist bomb attack on a cathedral in the Russia city of St Petersburg, the Kremlin said. Information provided by the CIA allowed Russian law-enforcement agencies to arrest the would-be attackers before they could carry out their plan, the Kremlin said in a statement posted on its internet site. A senior Trump administration official confirmed Trump and Putin had spoken on Sunday. However, there was no immediate confirmation from U.S. authorities that they had shared the intelligence with Russian officials. The foiled attack was to have been carried out on Kazansky Cathedral, in Russia's second city of St Petersburg, and on other locations in the city where large numbers of people gather, the Kremlin statement said.

TOUCHDOWN DIVE

3 **Tavarres King of the New York Giants scores a 57-yard touchdown against the Philadelphia Eagles during the third quarter of Sunday's game at MetLife Stadium.**

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

LANDSLIDES KILL 26 IN STORM-HIT PHILIPPINES

4 At least 26 people were killed while several residents were missing in an island province in central Philippines after tropical storm Kai-tak brought heavy rains that triggered landslides, local authorities and media said on Sunday. Kai-tak cut power supplies in many areas, forced the cancellation of several flights, stranded more than 15,000 people in various ports in the region and prompted nearly 88,000 people to seek shelter in evacuation centers. The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of Biliran island said 26 residents had died. Kai-tak cut power supplies in many areas, forced the cancellation of several flights, stranded more than 15,000 people in various ports in the region and prompted nearly 88,000 people to seek shelter in evacuation centers.

POWER OUTAGE CRIPPLES ATLANTA AIRPORT

5 Flights were delayed at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport on Sunday after a partial power outage, leaving passengers at the world's busiest airport stranded in dimly lit terminals or in aircraft idling on tarmacs. The partial shutdown at the start of one of the busiest travel weeks of the year forced the Federal Aviation Administration to hold back flights bound for Atlanta. Departures were delayed as well because equipment inside terminals was inoperative, the agency said, although the FAA flight control tower was operating normally. The cause of the outage, which occurred just after 1 p.m., was not immediately known, the airport said in a statement. It was working with Georgia Power to identify the problem and fix it. The utility had crews at the airport, spokesman John Kraft said.

POLL

32%

Just 32% of respondents to a new Associated Press-NORC poll said they approved of the job Trump is doing as president, while an overwhelming 67% said they disapproved.

Source: Associated Press-NORC

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Tailgating makes traffic worse, but MIT researchers have a solution

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology developed a system to reduce stop-and-go traffic.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
@kristindakota
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

If you've driven on any major road, you've probably experienced a traffic jam out of nowhere. Things are moving just along fine until you have to brake, and then you're inching forward for a while. Once you can pick up speed again, you wonder what even caused the traffic.

It turns out, tailgating is to blame, according to MIT researchers. And though tailgating seems like a part of human nature, they've also found a way they say will prevent such stop-and-go congestion.

MIT professor Berthold Horn and post-doc associate Liang Wang, both from the university's Computer Science and Artificial Laboratory (CSAIL), co-authored a paper that was published recently on the common commuting problem.

There's been a ton of research on traffic, Horn said, but he still focused on the issue because he was "desperate to find a solution."

First, here's why those jams are a problem in the first place.

"Each car individually, and its driver, is doing something that's personally rational: They're looking at the car ahead and adjusting their speed based on distance and velocity of that car ahead of them," Horn said.

But when there's a whole system of cars one behind the other, an issue arises. "If one car brakes for any reason, the car behind them has to brake," he said. "The car behind them has to break just a little bit harder, and the one behind that even harder, until it builds up until many many cars behind, someone may actually be stopped on the road, which is the beginning of a traffic jam."

MIT researchers have a possible solution for stop-and-go traffic. GETTY IMAGES

The key to keeping a constant flow of traffic, according to Horn, is not just keeping an eye on the car ahead of you, but also monitoring how close you are to the car behind you.

If drivers kept an equal distance between the car in front and the car behind, in what Horn calls "bilateral control," random jams would disappear. In fact, traffic would go roughly double the speed.

Of course, that's easier said than done, so Horn has an external solution: adaptive cruise-control.

Some cars are already equipped with adaptive cruise-control systems, but their flaw is that they only adjust your car's speed relative to the car right ahead. Horn is proposing systems that also have a sensor at both the front and rear bumpers.

This system could be implemented in self-driving cars, but it could also be added to cars now for a minor cost.

The solution to most traffic is to build more roads, Horn noted, but that's expensive, whereas this could increase the capacity of those roads without the cost of new infrastructure. Plus, lessening traffic would save people time as well as fuel, which would lead to less CO2 released into the atmosphere.

This latest research was sponsored by Toyota, which is planning to put front and rear adaptive cruise-control systems into their cars eventually, Horn said.

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Cuomo, Christie commit to funding their halves of Gateway Tunnel project

The governors announced they will add $3.65 billion in funding.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
@NikkiMMascali
nikki.mascali@metro.us

The Gateway Tunnel project "is one of the most important infrastructure projects in the country," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. AMTRAK

Govs. Andrew Cuomo and Chris Christie last week committed to fund 100 percent of their share of the Hudson River Gateway Tunnel rail project.

New York will fund $1.75 billion while New Jersey Transit will add $1.9 billion to the $1.9 billion already committed by the board of commissioners of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for a total of $5.55 billion.

"The Gateway Tunnel is critical to the long term vitality of the entire Northeast region and one of the most important infrastructure projects in the country," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.

Amtrak's two-track North River Tunnel opened in 1910 and serves 24 trains per hour. It suffered severe damage during Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The project will also consist of new bridges, a Penn Station annex and turning the James Farley Post Office into an Amtrak concourse.

While New York will contribute through its general fund, NJ Transit will add a new commuter charge. Starting in 2020, riders will pay 90 cents each trip, which will increase to $1.70 in 2028 and to $2.20 in 2038, the New York Post reported.

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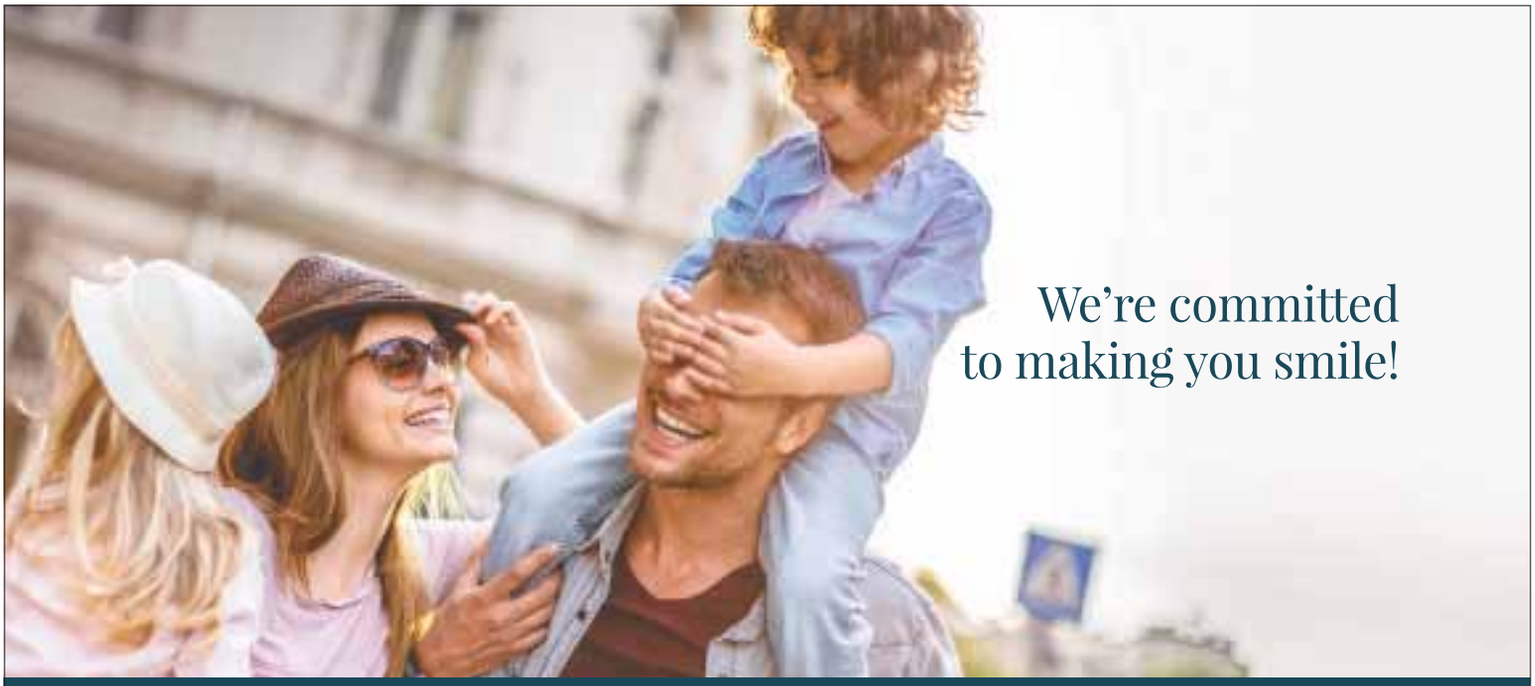

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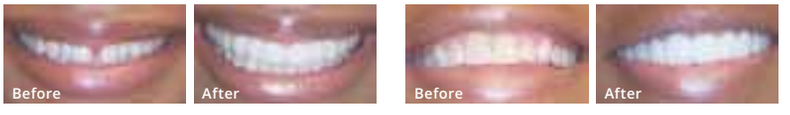

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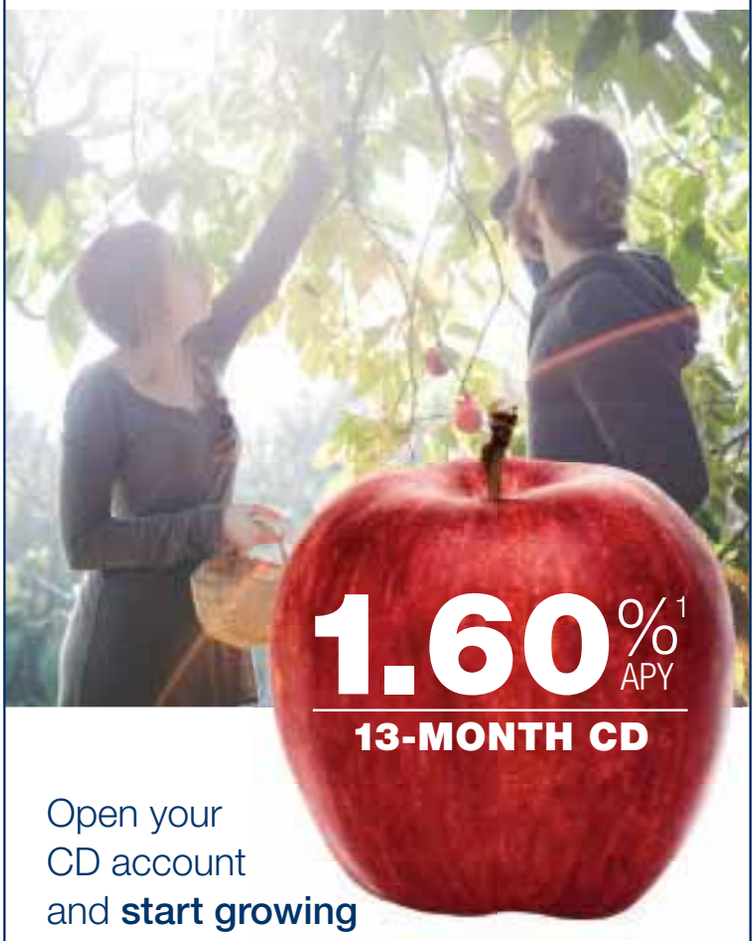

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MTA plans E, M line work between holidays

Taking advantage of fewer straphangers expect to be traversing the city, the MTA plans to do "significant" upgrades, repairs and maintenance on the E and M subway lines during the week between Christmas and New Year's.

More than 500 workers will tackle signal, track, drainage and other work in and near the 53rd Street tunnel, between Queens Plaza in Queens and 50th Street/Eighth Avenue in Manhattan starting the early morning of Tuesday, Dec. 26 through the late morning on Sunday, Dec. 31.

Part of the MTA's Subway Action Plan, next week's work, during a time when ridership is historically lower than normal weekdays, will enable workers to do a month's worth of weekend work during the five-day period.

Normal weekend service — and adjustments for New Year's Eve travelers — will resume before the holiday fun starts.

As part of its Subway Action Plan, the MTA will conduct extensive work on the E and M line near the 53rd Street tunnel between Christmas and New Year's. YOUTUBE/MTAINFO

"The schedule for this intensive Subway Action Plan and capital improvement work minimizes the impact on our customers while putting in new track, third rail and signal equipment for a more reliable ride," MTA Chief Operating Officer and acting NYC Transit President Phil Eng. "We appreciate our customers' patience while we do this critical work."

During the work, E trains will reroute along the F line between Jackson Heights-Roosevelt Avenue and West 4th Street at all times, before following their normal route to the World Trade Center, at all times — except for 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., when they will run on the F line to 2nd Avenue.

M trains will no operate aside from the M shuttle train between Metropolitan Avenue and Myrtle-Wyckoff Avenues. Extra J trains will run between Broadway Junction and Chambers Street.

Straphangers going to or from Forest Hills-71st Avenue can take the F, R or rerouted E.

Queens Plaza will still have R service, except on overnights, when there will be buses to 21st Street-Queensbridge.

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President Donald Trump speaks about tax reform on Dec. 5, 2017. GETTY IMAGES

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Let's get these words into print right at the top here while we still have the chance. Once the government starts banning language, there's no telling when the banning will stop.

"Vulnerable." "Entitlement." "Diversity." "Transgender." "Fetus." "Evidence-based." "Science-based."

Did you hear about this? The Trump Administration has told officials at the CDC (the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) that these seven words and phrases must NOT — repeat NOT — be mentioned in the agency's 2018 budget request.

The word-banning isn't stopping there. "Affordable Care Act" and "ACA" were banned at a second federal health agency, whose employees were told to always say "Obamacare" — presumably with a sneer. And the State Department got an even creepier directive. No more "sex education" programs abroad. Now it's "sexual risk avoidance," a tortured euphemism for the "abstinence-only" programs that have long been discredited by "evidence-based" and "science-based" studies.

Oops. Sorry about that.

There is, of course, a word for this kind of censorship and thought control, a word that, thankfully, has not been banned yet. The word is "dumb."

For one thing, it's counterproductive. Whenever people are told not to say something, it only makes them want to say it louder. Just ask any 3-year-old who knows about "poo-poo."

At the same time, all this word banning isn't just ignorant. It can cost lives. Do we really want America's public-health docs to move away from "evidence-based" and "science-based" cures? What would be better? Leeches? Faith-healing? More trips to the Trump International day spa?

None of this should come as a surprise, I suppose. Donald Trump's national security advisers have learned to avoid mentioning Russia around the president. Otherwise, the Washington Post reports, the daily intel briefings go totally "off the rails."

They should probably also avoid Mueller, Flynn, Manafort, Gates and Papadopoulos — the special counsel and the first batch of Trump aides to plead guilty or be indicted in the Russia probe.

Oh, and one other word is best avoided. I won't even write it here, but you'll be hearing more of it. It starts with an "I."

Metro columnist Ellis Henican is the best-selling author of a dozen books, including "TRUMPITUDE: The Secret Confessions of Donald's Brain." Follow him on Twitter @henican.

ANALYSIS

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Mueller investigation responds to accusations of unlawfulness

The allegations concern the collection of tens of thousands of emails.

An organization established for President Donald Trump's transition to the White House said over the weekend that the special counsel investigating allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election had obtained tens of thousands of emails unlawfully, an accusation that the special counsel's office later rejected.

Kory Langhofer, counsel to the transition team known as Trump for America, Inc. (TFA), wrote a letter to congressional committees to say special counsel Robert Mueller's team had improperly received the emails from the General Services Administration (GSA), a government agency.

The special counsel's office waved off the transition team's complaint.

"When we have obtained emails in the course of our ongoing criminal investigation, we have secured either the account owner's consent or appropriate criminal process," said Peter Carr, spokesman for the special counsel's office.

According to Langhofer's letter, a copy of which was seen by Reuters, career staff members at the GSA "unlawfully produced TFA's private materials, including privileged communications, to the special counsel's office." It also said the materials included "tens of thousands of emails."

Trump's transition team used facilities of the GSA, which helps manage the U.S. government bureaucracy, in the period between the Republican's November presidential election victory and his inauguration in January. The Trump team's accusation adds to the growing friction between the president's supporters and Mueller's office as it investigates whether Russia interfered in the election and if Trump or anyone on his team colluded with Moscow.

The GSA did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

Democrats say there is a wide-ranging effort by the president's allies on Capitol Hill and in some media outlets to discredit Mueller's investigation. Trump himself has loudly declared Mueller's effort a waste of time. "There is absolutely no collusion. That has been proven," Trump told reporters on Friday.

President Trump, when asked on Sunday if he was considering firing special counsel Robert Mueller, told reporters, "No. I'm not."

Democratic lawmakers in recent days have expressed concern that Trump might fire Mueller. On Friday, Representative Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, said he fears the committee's Republican majority intends to close its investigation of the topic prematurely.

Langhofer, the Trump transition team lawyer, wrote in his letter that the GSA's transfer of materials was discovered on Dec. 12 and 13.

The FBI had requested the materials from GSA staff on Aug. 23, asking for copies of the emails, laptops, cell phones and other materials associated with nine members of the Trump transition team, the letter said.

Langhofer argued that such transition teams are considered private, nonprofit organizations whose records are private and not subject to presidential records laws. REUTERS

Robert Mueller speaks during a news conference at the FBI headquarters on June 25, 2008. GETTY IMAGES

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Baby Boomers Benefitting From Knee Arthritis Tr

10-Minute Technology Guided FDA-Cleared Painless Medical Treatments.. Allows P

New York City - Nothing is more true. A life with constant pain is not a life worth living. And if you can't stay active and do all the things you love - like walking, playing golf, tennis, vacationing etc. It's not really a life at all.

...the Pain Is More Like A Prison

And for generations, knee arthritis has given good, hard working people a life sentence of pain and suffering. To make things worse, slick marketers only add to the pain by promising wonder cures. Late night television and your mail box are filled with "wonder arthritis cures" that make wild claims and sound too good to be true . . . ***Because They Are***

Nothing is worse than getting your hopes up - spending your hard earned money - only to be let down time after time.

It is easy to give up...

But while marketers were peddling "wonder cures," real doctors and researchers were hard at work trying to discover a real medical solution. Modern medicine eradicated small pox and polio. Through laser eye surgery, doctors can give almost blind people perfect 20/20 vision. The potential cures on the horizon with breakthroughs like stem cell and regenerative therapies are endless.

Solve The Riddle Of Arthritis Pain?

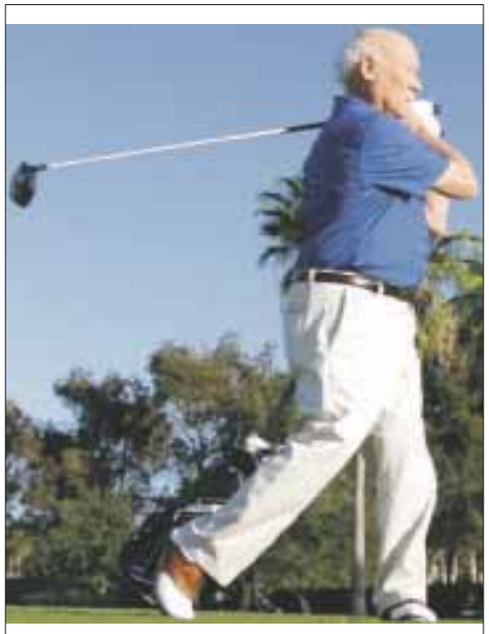
For the past 3 years, that's exactly what a medical clinic in New York City has been doing. The ***NYC Pain MD*** doctors have been able to help thousands of knee arthritis sufferers with cutting-edge treatments and technology older generations could only dream about. One of these treatments in particular has helped thousands of patents ease or eliminate pain and go back to doing their favorite activities like: walking, playing golf, tennis and many more. The treatment is called viscosupplementation. *But wait.* This is NOT the typical viscosupplementation. So if you are one of the many knee arthritis sufferers who already had viscosupplementation and did not get great results - what you are about to discover should be very important. to you in particular. It might even get you out of pain.

Here is why: During viscosupplementation, a special lubricating gel is put directly into your arthritic knee joint. This not only helps the knee joint to glide more smoothly, it acts as a cushion, protects the joint. and relieves a lot of pain. This is often referred to as "joint oil." In many cases, when done properly, this can dramatically lessen knee pain for up to 6 months and much longer in many cases.

And even better - if this treatment works for you the first time - it can be safely repeated when necessary and the results are often better for some.

Like Threading A Needle?

The key to this treatment being successful is actually getting the special lubricating gel directly into the joint where it can go to work. That's why the doctors at ***NYC Pain MD*** use very advanced digital imaging that allows them to see directly into the joint and make sure the lubricating gel "hits the spot" and the treatment has the best odds for success. Studies show that doctors doing these types of procedures without this special imaging actually miss the joint space up to one third of the time!



"I've had trouble with my knee walking. I'm a golfer and want to play golf but I couldn't. I made the call and went and it's the best thing I ever did. It's just – now I can play golf, I can walk, I can climb stairs, I can do things I did many years ago".

"It's the smartest thing ever did" "Since I've been going for the treatment for my knees I don't' take any pills, I take not over the counter medication.."

"This a good alternative to surgery." "I am so glad I went. I'm so confident I feel so good about it and I recommend It to everybody." William La Spina . Golf Enthusiast

((While ***NYC Pain MD*** cannotsay all patients will respond like this we can say they are possible. Every patient is individual and results will vary. patient to patient.)

Why Treatment Can Fail

This is why viscosupplmentation can fail for some people. It is also why many knee arthritis sufferers come to ***NYC Pain MD*** after failed treatments elsewhere... and are finally able to get relief. It is not uncommon for patients to travel hours for these advanced and precise treatment methods.

Patients Should Be Assured About Prescsion Treatments

If you have already had this procedure without this advanced imaging... Or if it was not used throughout the procedure, there is a good chance you did not get the maximum results you could have and should have.

What The Research Says About Results: Can We Slow Down Arthritis? A retrospective study of nearly 1000 cases of knee arthritis between 49 and 79 years old was done by an orthopedic surgeon in Lousiana. Patients with Grade 4 or "bone to bone" who presented for consideration of knee replacement were instead put on a program of image-guided gel injection procedures. Follow up almost 4 years later revealed that about 3 of 4 had done well and had not need surgery...regardless of age or even if overweight.

Another study was done by Pearl Diver research group who reviewed 198,000 files of those who underewent this type of treatment. Follow up 2 years later revealed 82% had not required surgery.

Massive Cost Saving For Patients, Insurance Companies & Medicare?

• While surgery may be the best option for some...for others, due to fear of surgical risk, medical ailments that may prohibit surgery or for those that are just seeking less invasive alternatives, the costs savings can be staggering. In a study published in the American Journal of Managed Care, a potential savings of $4706.00 per patient if treated with viscosupplementation was estimated[1]. In a theoretical population of 100,000 (NYC is over 10 million) over a 3 yr. period, 808 knee replacements were projected to be avoided and up to $9,131,819 could potentially be saved by patients, medicare and insurance carriers. *This should be welcome news for rising health care costs.*

Who Can Benefit From This Treatment?

This treatment is not for everyone. But it may be for you if you have sensations of grinding or rubbing, pain on simple weight bearing, getting up from sitting or even simply

reatments Their Parents Could Only Dream About

Patients Go Home With Just A Band-Aid On The Knee... No Surgery - No Hospital

when bending your knees, struggling up and down stairs (like subways), have pain on walking, feel tight and stiff after activities or in the morning or just cannot move like you used to. If this sounds like you, then seeing one of the specially trained doctors at ***NYC Pain MD*** could be the best thing you could do for yourself . But it is suggested you do not wait as arthritis can easily worsen with more time.

And this is very important - especially for those who have had viscosupplmentation in the past without good results. Many patients who did not have good results elsewhere are often able to get a favorable results because of the advanced imaging technology and procedure experience at ***NYC Pain MD.***

Even doctors themselves are often patients at NYC Pain MD.

How to Find Out If The Experts At *NYC Pain MD* Can Help You

If you have knee arthritis pain and would like to see if this treatment might help you - the experts at ***NYC Pain MD*** offer a complimentary screening appointment.

This screening will help determine if you are a candidate for treatment and also gives you a chance to get all your questions answered.

If you are a candidate, you will leave knowing that you found the possible way to lessen or even eliminate your knee pain for 6 months or more for many patients.

There is no obligation and if you are not a candidate - the doctor will help you find the best approach for your particular case and refer you to the proper sources. To set up a complimentary screening at **800-741-5340.**

The *NYC Pain MD* 'X" Factor ?

NYC Pain MD is a high-tech medical facility equipped with all the necessary equipment to treat appropriate candidates right in their own in-office procedure suites. What does this mean for you? It means no stressful hospital, no intimidating surgical center or out patient facility visits. This also means you don't have to be "Rich and Famous" because by avoiding all those "fancy" facilities you don't have to bear their severe costs which can often be several times the cost of the treatments themselves. Your experience is far more relaxing with personalized attention. The treatment is gentle and you'll go home with just a one-inch band aid on your knee...and little to no downtime. Many patients go right to work after surgey with no stress and virtually pain-less 10 minute treatments.

The Secret To Knee Pain Relief? With precision advances in medical science and technology the caring doctors at ***NYC Pain MD*** have been able to help so many relieve their pain and get their active lifestyle back.

How To Get A No-Cost Screening & Find Out If This Knee Arthritis Treatment Is For You

The popularity of this treatment is startling. New Yorkers are lining up weekly to find out if the are candidates… patients looking for options other than surgery that really work. But because this is a real medical treatment - it is not for everyone. That's why the experts have setup an easy screening visit.. This screening will help determine if you are a candidate for additional examination and possible treatment. This screening is offered at no cost to the patient. All your questions answered and you will find out if this treatment is for you .Zero risk or obligation. Just call 800-741-5340 Tell them, "I would like the knee screening." They will take care of everything. Due to demand, spots are limited - call immediately to avoid unnecessary waiting. The number to call is: 800-741-5340

More Good News About Insurance: *Many insurances including Traditional Medicare (part B) help cover modest to significant portions of these care programs*

To set up a complimentary screening, just call **800-741-5340**. But if you want a screening, we recommend calling right now. Due to time limitations, the center can only offer a limited number of screening per month. They decided to limit the number because they believe in the giving every patient the individual time they deserve.

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LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR THE BAYONNE BRIDGE

LARRY PENNER
Analysis

Something else was missing from recent news that costs for reconstruction of the Bayonne Bridge have now grown between $350 to $400 million from $1.3 to between $1.65 and $1.7 billion. Ongoing work is two years behind schedule.

There is an alternative which would benefit both Staten Island and New Jersey residents. Consider extending the existing New Jersey Transit Hudson/Bergen Light Rail line from the current 8th Street Station terminus southward across the Bayonne Bridge to Staten Island. It could continue along the old Staten Island North Shore Rail line, connecting with the St. George, Staten Island Ferry Terminal.

Consider a three-way funding partnership between New Jersey Transit, Port Authority along with the MTA. If each agency would program $50 million per year over ten years or $500 million per agency, you would have $1.5 billion. You could leverage these locally committed funding to apply for $500 million in Federal Transit Administration New Starts funding. This would provide $2 billion for a capital improvement that would not only benefit 500,000 Staten Island residents, but also several million New Jersey residents, as well.

The MTA found several hundred million dollars to cover cost overruns for the Fulton Street subway station complex adjacent to the World Trade Center. The MTA found billions more to cover periodic cost increases for the ongoing Long Island Rail Road Grand Central Terminal Eastside Access project.

Why not ask New Jersey Transit, the Port Authority along with the MTA for $50 million per year each over 10 years for this new project? Wouldn't $1.5 billion local plus $500 million federal totaling $2 billion be sufficient to build this new transit connection?

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Why Donald Trump can be charged with obstruction, according to an expert

It's right there in the Constitution, says a leading law scholar.

MICHAEL MARTIN
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

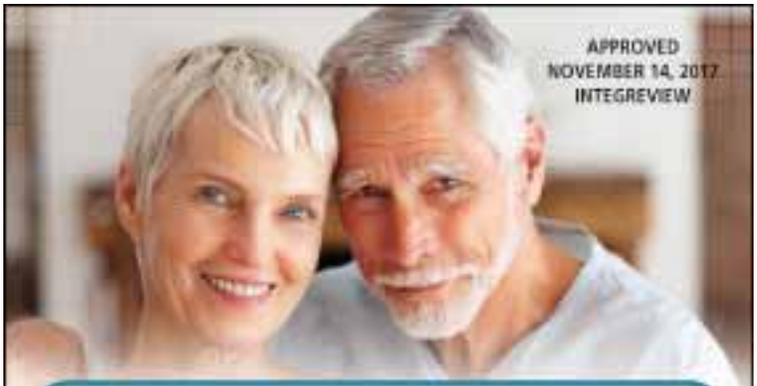
When discussing the potential consequences of the Russia investigation on President Trump, political analysts often say that even if there's evidence he committed obstruction of justice, a sitting president can't be charged with a crime. Others argue that the president can't obstruct justice because he's ultimately in charge of law enforcement. Both are incorrect, a leading Constitutional scholar said today.

According to Laurence Tribe, a Constitutional law professor at Harvard, the Supreme Court ruled that the president is subject

The Supreme Court ruled that the president can be subject to criminal investigation and its consequences.
GETTY IMAGES

to criminal investigation — and its consequences — in two rulings: In 1974's United States v. Nixon, the Court forced then-President Nixon to turn over White House recordings as an unindicted co-conspirator in Watergate; and Morrison v. Olson, the 1988 ruling that created the office of special prosecutor, who is able to investigate and prosecute crimes committed by the executive branch.

In Tribe's view, it's clear that Trump committed obstruction of justice in firing FBI Director James Comey after asking him to "let go" of the investigation into Mike Flynn's dealings with Russia. "A president who offers to keep the FBI director in his job if but only if the director agrees to 'go easy' on a national security director who has lied to the FBI about his dealings with a hostile foreign power is both offering a bribe and obstructing justice," wrote Tribe. "And, if he does so with the motive of covering up his campaign's conspiracy against the United States in orchestrating foreign interference with our presidential election, that president is engaged in a particularly pernicious form of obstruction."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12 Celebrity May/December relationships

Ah, the holiday season: A perfect time to celebrate the ones you love. Especially if you're in a relationship and your significant other is, oh, 20 to 40 years your senior. Here's a look at 12 celebrity May/December romances. Happy holidays! **METRO**

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Patrick Stewart & Sunny Ozell

The "Logan" star, 77, and his musician wife, 38, married in 2013. Lovely!

Woody Allen & Soon-Yi Previn

Allen, 82, married Soon-Yi, 47 — the adopted daughter of his former partner, Mia Farrow — in 1997. Creepy!

Sarah Paulson & Holland Taylor

Actresses Paulson, 42, and Taylor, 74, have been dating since 2015. Yas!

Jeff Goldblum & Emilie Livingston

The forever hot "Thor: Ragnarok" actor, 65, and his wife, Livingston, 34, married in 2014. Rad!

Alec & Hilaria Baldwin

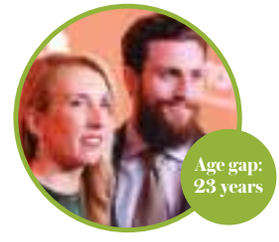
The 59-year-old "Boss Baby" and the 33-year-old fitness and wellness expert married in 2012. Sure!

Kelsey Grammer & Kayte Walsh

The "Frasier" alum, 62, and Walsh, 37, married in 2011. OK!

Catherine Zeta-Jones & Michael Douglas

Zeta-Jones, 48, and Douglas, 73, tied the knot in 2000. Great!



Aaron & Sam Taylor-Johnson

The "Kick-Ass" star, 27, and the 50-year-old filmmaker married in 2012. Right on!

Bruce Willis & Emma Heming

Willis, 62, married British actress Heming, 39 in 2009. Blammo!

Harrison Ford & Calista Flockhart

The 75-year-old "Star Wars" alum and Flockhart, 53, married in 2010. Bazinga!

Annette Bening & Warren Beatty

Bening, 59, married Beatty, 80, in 1992 after meeting on the set of "Bugsy." Cool!

Rosie Huntington-Whiteley & Jason Statham

The model, 30, and partner Statham, 50, have been together since 2010. All right!

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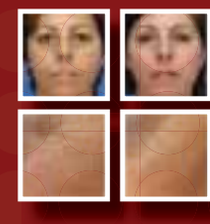

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Hong Chau has already won

Chatting with the breakout star of "Downsizing" about her Golden Globe nomination, the immigrant experience and strong female characters.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
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In "Downsizing," Chau plays Ngoc Lan Tran, an involuntarily downsized Vietnamese activist with a missing leg — and a whole lot of grit. PARAMOUNT PICTURES

With just two films under her belt, actress Hong Chau has achieved more than most other actors do in their entire careers. And her performance in "Downsizing" — in theaters Dec. 22 — has turned her into a bona-fide awards-season contender.

In fact, the 38-year-old (whose only other film credit is 2014's "Inherent Vice") has already picked up Golden Globe, Critics Choice, and Screen Actors Guild nominations for her role in the film, which explores a solution to overpopulation via shrinking — or downsizing. But according to Chau, the slew of nominations hasn't affected her, at all.

"I recognize that a lot more goes into that discussion than just whether a person is talented or if the material is worthy of any sort of accolade," she says over the phone. "I feel like I have won by just getting to play this amazing woman in this fantastic movie.

"Hopefully we're not preaching at anybody," Chau continued. "There's just a lot to unpack. Alexander Payne makes films that reward repeat viewings, though, so you keep on getting different perspectives and revelations each time."

GETTY

In "Downsizing," Chau — who was born to Vietnamese parents in a Thai refugee camp and was raised in New Orleans — plays Ngoc Lan Tran, an involuntarily downsized Vietnamese activist with a missing leg. And she immediately connected to her character's experience.

"[Ngoc Lan Tran is] the complete opposite to all of the female characters I've seen," Chau says. "She doesn't wear her femininity on her sleeve, she's direct, doesn't suffer fools, and knows exactly what she wants and goes after it."

Chau finds the portrayal of her character's immigrant experience in "Downsizing" — and the otherness inherent to that experience — to be straightforward, too.

"I really admired the intelligent observations about the immigrant experience," she says. "Both mine and Matt [Damon's] characters are labelled quickly as 'others' and then repeatedly face prejudice.

"Most Americans just don't understand what it's like to leave your country, leave everything behind, and arrive at a foreign place where you don't have a support system, and are lost," she continues. "This movie cares about the invisible, the exploited, the marginalized."

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Playing the role of Bob Belcher will be chef Alvin Cailan. TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

'Bob's Burgers' comes to SoHo

Taste a different Burger of the Day inspired by the Fox animated show at this weeklong pop-up.

EVA KIS
@thisiskis
eva.kis@metro.us

"Bob's Burgers" is landing in New York for one week of the best burgers dad jokes can inspire.

The Fox animated series about the Belcher family, who runs a burger restaurant located in either Long Island or the Jersey Shore, features a new Burger of the Day in every episode with a pun-based name.

Playing the role of real-life Bob will be chef Alvin Cailan, and standing in for Bob's Burgers will be SoHo's Chefs Club Counter (62 Spring St.) for Seven Days of "Bob's Burgers" at Chefs Club Counter will run from Monday, Dec. 18 to Sunday, Dec. 24, from 11:30 a.m. until sold out.

Cailan collaborated with the animated series' creator, Loren Bouchard, on a week's worth of specialty burgers with names like Baby You Can Chive My Car and Dark Side of the Shroom.

A different Burger of the Day will be offered each day and cost $20, which includes a side of fries, a Bob's Burgers keychain and sticker.

The Baby You Can Chive My Car Burger

Proceeds from each "Bob's Burger" sale at Chefs Club Counter will go to the Los Angeles Fire Department, who are continuing to fight devastating wildfires across California.

Los Angeles-based chef Cailan arrived in New York this summer with a wildly popular pop-up of his restaurant Eggslut, but pivoted to burgers in December for his three-month stint as chef-in-residence at Chefs Club Counter.

"Eggslut was always going to be temporary in NYC, which keeps in line with the Chefs Club Counter concept: temporary pop-ups and takeovers," he explains.

While Eggslut is a co-operative of chefs and restaurant partners, the burgers are Cailan's own project. The usual burger menu at Chefs Club Counter is no slouch either, with dishes from Cailan as well as his famous friends like Eleven Madison Park's Daniel Humm and Jean-Georges Vongerichten.

"Burgers are something that all chefs love," he says. "It's one of the first dishes that we become connoisseurs of. Everyone has a favorite burger, and their own unique preparation that they prefer."

Check out all of the Burgers of the Day and make your lunch plans now:

Monday, Dec. 18: Baby You Can Chive My Car Burger (fried pickles, chives, sour cream/mustard spread)

Tuesday, Dec. 19: Don't You Four Cheddar 'bout Me Burger (four cheddars, bacon, lettuce, tomato)

Wednesday, Dec. 20: Foot Feta-ish Burger/Never Been Feta (feta, arugula, mayo/mustard)

Thursday, Dec. 21: Dark Side of the Shroom Burger (shiitake, pineapple, teriyaki sauce)

Friday, Dec. 22: Hit Me with Your Best Shallot Burger (caramelized shallots, chèvre spread, arugula)

Saturday, Dec. 23: We're Here, We're Gruyère, Get Used to it Burger (sweet pickles, Gruyère, caramelized onions, au jus-dipped bun)

Sunday, Dec. 24: Bet it all on Black Garlic Burger (mozzarella, spinach, black garlic spread)

The gelato scientist

How Il Laboratorio del Gelato, now in Greenwich Village, makes the best Italian ice cream in New York City.

EVA KIS
@thisiskis
eva.kis@metro.us

In Jon Snyder's laboratory, the science experiments result in delicious gelato and sorbet flavors.

Il Laboratorio del Gelato — designed to look like a lab with stark white walls and gleaming chrome machinery — has been churning out new flavors since opening in 2002 in the Lower East Side, racking up more than 300 and counting.

That kind of work means long days for Snyder, 53, who gets up "between 2:30 and 4 a.m., depending on the day and my alarm clock — which is pretty internal by now."

And this ice cream Willy Wonka is not slowing down. Snyder just added a second location of Il Laboratorio in Greenwich Village at 56 University Place, serving 48 constantly rotating flavors, as well as sundaes, gelato cakes and milkshakes (you can also get his gelatos and vegan sorbets shipped nationwide).

While much of what he does hasn't changed in 15 years, there was one major addition to Il Laboratorio's gelato counter just this year: toppings. "I've always been happy to let the product shine and not clutter it with toppings," he says. "But after 14-plus years, I gave in to the requests."

So what makes Il Laboratorio del Gelato the most in-demand Italian ice cream in town? Here's what you need to know.

Ice cream is his life

Snyder began his career in frozen treats at the age of 9, when he started working summer at his family's Carvel ice cream store. He went on to found the Ciao Bella gelato brand at the age of 19, which can be found in freezer cases all over the country. A Columbia business degree and a brief stint on Wall Street later, he found himself called back to the world of ice cream. When you know your calling, you can't fight it.

Nothing has just one flavor

There's not one flavor of most fruits, so why should there be one flavor of gelato? Il Laboratorio is known for exploring the whole spectrum of flavors in fruits like fig (black mission, brown turkey, white, dried Turkish, dried mission fig) and apple (Braeburn, honeycrisp, gala, green apple, Fuji, apple cinnamon). Il Laboratorio also packs in a whole liquor shelf full of grown-up flavors like chocolate Kahlua, grapefruit Campari sorbet and Guinness.

Simplicity is key

Gelato is the low-and-slow version of ice cream, made with less fat. To keep the thick, luxurious texture, Snyder revealed his secret to Serious Eats: temperature. The more the gelato mixture is chilled before churning, the creamier it comes out. He describes his process as a simply balancing "proportion, flavor, texture and sweetness." Is there a flavor he's particularly proud of cracking? "I love a great milk chocolate."

His secret favorite are the sorbets

Snyder confessed to Business Insider that despite his shop's name, his flavor vision is best expressed in another kind of frozen treat: "The sorbets are where we really shine," Snyder says. Ninety percent of what goes into his sorbets is real fruits (and vegetables like celery!), peeled and cooked right in the lab. "The flavor comes out and you can tell how pure it is."

You'll find 48 flavors of gelato and sorbet at the counter every day. PROVIDED

Jon Snyder in the laboratorio.

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HOW TO GET AHEAD

Should you be investing in cryptocurrency?

Maybe it's time to load up on some digital cash. ISTOCK

Can you really trust Bitcoin's recent rise in value?

PAT KING
@MetroNewYork
patrick.king@metro.us

With cryptocurrency companies like Bitcoin and Litecoin blowing up on the stock market recently, you probably reacted to the news in one of two different ways: Kicking yourself for not investing in these companies early on, or kicking yourself for not investing enough.

Many were shocked to see the stock in these companies skyrocket, with even a lesser-known companies like Litecoin reaching a 1,400 percent increase in its initial value this year alone. But with cryptocurrency (the term used for online-only digital cash companies such as Bitcoin) being such a brand new industry, how can anyone predict whether or not they will have the same value a year from now let alone the next few months?

In an effort to help everyday people understand this a little more, Chicago-based data company Hedge Fund Research (HFR) recently announced it will launch a comprehensive database that will show the general public which major hedge funds are investing in cryptocurrency companies.

As of now, financial experts are scrambling to understand the future of this new currency. In a recent roundtable discussion with five financial reporters from NerdWallet, titled "Is Bitcoin Safe?" the writers tried to determine whether investing in cryptocurrency is a safe bet.

Investing writer Andrea Coombes tried to explain the sudden turn around for Bitcoin by saying "With Bitcoin, the underlying value is in question. I mean, you can lose money on a mutual fund investment, but if you believe U.S. and international companies are likely, over the long haul, to continue to make money, you can trust that there will be a general move higher for stocks over time. With Bitcoin, it's hard to even understand what the value is. The value is in the demand itself right now."

Others were a little less optimistic. Writer James Royal sees the meteoric rise in Cryptocurrency stock as a fluke and an investment that people should avoid like the plague. "It's worthless, or near-worthless," said Royal. "Super-investors such as Warren Buffett have made similar comments. Part of the issue is that as long as Bitcoin remains this volatile, it's useless as a currency."

All of this begs the question: is the main allure of investing in cryptocurrency the uncertainty of the industry as a whole? Either way, those who held onto their stock are most likely over the moon with this news. It just remains to be seen if the value keeps rising or comes crashing down to Earth in the weeks to come.

Valiant Eli, Giants come up short

Wentz-less Eagles escape MetLife with slim victory over Giants.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

Eli Manning implores for a pass-interference penalty while Eagles defensive end Chris Long celebrates. GETTY IMAGES

Forget the Eagles and Giants' win-loss records. A classic NFC East battle broke out in East Rutherford Sunday, as the now 12-2 Eagles squeaked past the now 2-12 Giants, 34-29 in Week 15.

Nick Foles — starting the rest of the season for the injured Carson Wentz — threw four touchdown passes while Eli Manning collected an eye-popping 434 yards in the air (with 139 of them to Sterling Shepard) in a duel of potent offenses.

Clinging to a two-point lead, the Eagles failed to find the end zone in the red zone late in the fourth, settling for a field goal and a 34-29 lead with 3:55 to go.

With a chance to lead the Giants down the field, Manning was able to draw two penalties passing the ball, getting New York to the 50-yard-line quickly. Three completions put the Giants inside the 10 with less than one minute to go.

In a bizarre play-call, the Giants ran the ball on third down and failed to find the end zone. Paired with a false-start penalty, the Giants had a make-or-break fourth and goal from the 11-yard-line where Manning's pass went through the end zone untouched.

Philly clinched the win when, after a three-and-out, Manning's last ditch effort with eight seconds fell well short.

Right out of the locker room, New York marched down the field (for the first time all season on their opening drive) on a 13-play, 75-yard drive to take a 6-0 lead. Orleans Darkwa found paydirt a few plays after a third-down holding call gave the Giants new life. A blocked extra point softened the celebration just a little bit.

On the ensuing Eagles drive, a costly Giants penalty served the same purpose, as pass interference inside the five-yard-line put the Eagles in a 1st-and-goal situation. A play later, Foles (4-for-4 on the drive) connected with Alshon Jeffery in the back of the end zone to hop to a 7-6 lead.

A counter punch came as the Giants took advantage of some soft play in the Eagles' secondary. Manning led another march downfield as a wide open Tavarres King caught a touchdown pass to put the G-men up 13-7.

The first team to blink was Philly, which after recovering an Olivier Vernon forced strip sack, failed to convert on a 3rd-and-long one play later and was forced to punt. The Giants made them pay, finding Sterling Shepard on a 67-yard slant to up their lead to an impressive 20-7 after just 16 minutes of play.

After Manning was cooled off by an interception by Ronald Darby, Foles hit Ertz over the middle to chip away at the lead, 20-14.

New York's special teams made the next mistake as Philadelphia was able to block a Giants punt and take a 21-20 lead after a Foles-to-Trey Burton connection that was wide open in the end zone that took all the wind out of New York's sails.

A furious push for a field goal did get the Giants back on top 23-21 before the 30-minute horn.

A chip shot field goal on the heels of a 64-yard drive put the Eagles back ahead 24-23 to open the second and after a short Giants punt, Foles hooked up for touchdown No. 4 with Zach Ertz to get the NFC East champs ahead by eight, 31-23.

The Eagles committed an unforced error by getting penalized on a potential Giants punt — which gave Manning the opening to find King on a 57-yard touchdown sprint. A failed two-point try had Philly's lead at 31-29 as the third wound down.

With an opportunity to take a lead in the fourth, Malcolm Jenkins found a way to get his body in front of an Aldrick Rosas field goal try. The block preserved a two-point lead.

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Petty-led Jets no match for Saints

With Bryce Petty standing in for the injured Josh McCown, the New York Jets (5-9) dropped their second-straight game on Sunday afternoon to the New Orleans Saints (10-4) 31-19.

Making just his fifth-career start, Petty completed 19-of-39 passes for 179 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions in an attempt to do the impossible: outduel Saints quarterback Drew Brees.

The New Orleans veteran passer went 26-for-36 with 285 yards and a pair of touchdowns while he was supported by 118 yards on the ground between Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara.

The Saints dominated at the start, putting up 10 points in their first two possessions, which featured a one-yard scoring rush from Ingram with 3:07 in the first.

They also outgained the Jets, 132-17, during that opening stretch.

In desperate need of some momentum, the Jets turned to their running game and powered their way back into it.

Embarking on a 12-play drive, New York ran the ball 10 times, mostly utilizing Bilal Powell as he garnered 31 of his team's 75 yards. His two-yard touchdown rush opened the scoring for the visitors early in the second quarter to pull within three.

The Saints punched right back when Brees picked up his 20th touchdown pass of the season, hitting Kamara for a 10-yard score as the rookie rusher from Tennessee continued to prove that he's one of the most lethal receivers from the backfield in the red zone.

Despite getting points from their first three possessions, the Saints only carried a seven-point lead going into halftime after their offense suddenly went cold. In the meantime, the Jets managed to grind out a field goal in the final seconds of the second quarter.

Petty drove the Jets down into the red zone on their first drive of the second half with a chance to tie, but could only muster another field goal to cut the Jets deficit to four.

The sputtering Saints had two chances to extend their lead, moving into Jets territory. But wide receiver Brandon Coleman fumbled the ball away each time to ensure the Jets stayed close as the game wound into the fourth quarter.

Bryce Petty couldn't find a way to break open the Saints on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Petty and the Jets were unable to put together any sort of real threat to take advantage of Coleman's turnovers, giving New Orleans plenty of time to right the ship and put things away.

On the back of Thomas, the Saints went 64 yards on nine plays, with the receiver recording 50 of those on four catches, to put the Saints up 11. Thomas provided the exclamation point of the drive with a four-yard touchdown reception with 7:42 left for some insurance.

With 1:51 left, Petty connected with running back Elijah McGuire for a two-yard screen pass and score. The Jets failed the two-point conversion that would have made it a three-point game

But Ingram iced it with the biggest play of the day, a 50-yard touchdown with 1:33 remaining to go to officially eliminate the Jets from postseason contention.

JOE PANTORNO

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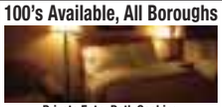

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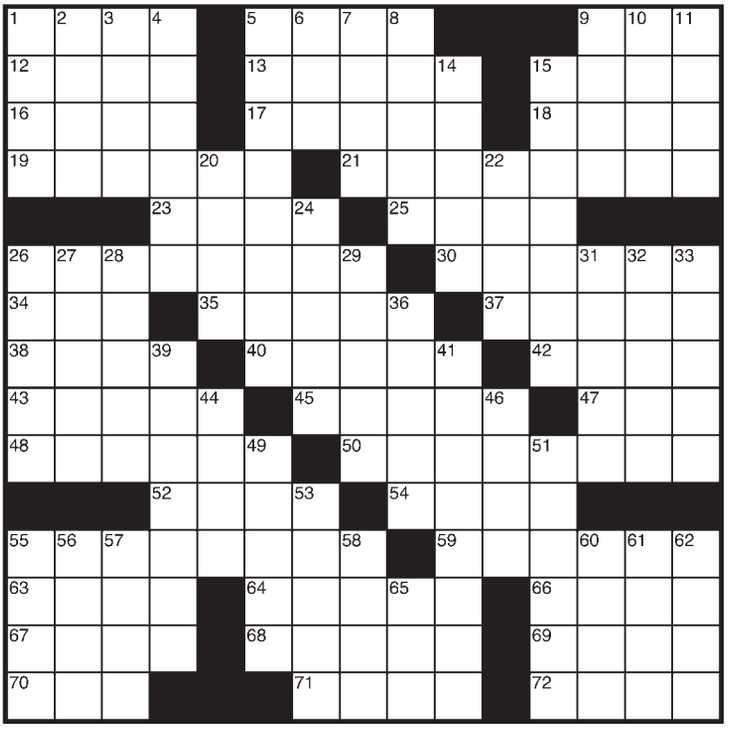
Across

1 Wipe the woodwork
5 Shoppers' haven
9 Ramble around
12 Ersatz butter
13 Accepted principle
15 Isinglass
16 Tiny insect
17 Eager and willing
18 Found a roost
19 Uninhibited
21 Outlaw
23 Underwater shockers
25 Overindulge
26 Nonassertive ones
30 Garage for planes
34 Outfit
35 Peanuts or popcorn
37 Elegant wrap
38 Reformers' targets
40 Artemis, to Livy
42 In the distance
43 Running mates
45 Big Dipper neighbor
47 Ostrich cousin
48 Quick trip
50 1996 film role for Madonna (2 wds.)
52 Stray dogs
54 Wax-coated cheese
55 Soldier's garb
59 Pass
63 Well-known auth.
64 Expression
66 Strait of Hormuz country
67 Flash Gordon villain
68 The One-L Lama
69 Strauss of jeans
70 Wallach or Lilly
71 Director -- Ephron
72 Lost no time

Down

1 Venetian magistrate
2 Arm bone
3 Wither
4 Go unsteadily
5 Atlantic Coast state
6 Wood chopper
7 Truth stretcher
8 Mineral deposits
9 Arizona river
10 Battery fluid
11 Go steady
14 Talking bird
15 Vivid color
20 Finishes a skirt
22 Sweater letters
24 Placid
26 Ambition
27 Persian Gulf sight
28 Girl-watcher
29 False alarm
31 Office helper
32 Bowie's last stand
33 Second airing
36 Rascal
39 Typesetter's concern
41 Professor's milieu
44 Tucked in
46 Silica mineral
49 Celtic priest
51 Sends via modem
53 Type of car
55 Reputation
56 Indigo plant
57 Nobelist -- Morrison
58 Fodder storage
60 Get ready
61 Keep for later
62 Writer -- Bagnold
65 Galley mover



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easy

5	6				4			
1							8	
	9		1		8		7	
	3				7	2		
2	5	4				8	3	7
		9	5				1	
	7		3		5		9	
	4							3
			2				4	8

hard

	1						8	4
		7	4					
4		3			6			5
8				6			1	
1		9	8		3	5		6
	5			1				8
3			9			6		7
					4	2		
5	9						4	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Show discipline and take care of unfinished business before you engage in social activities or make personal changes or plans for upcoming festivities.

Taurus Don't take shortcuts. Gather information before you make a purchase. A change in the way you handle your health, legal and money matters will be required.

Gemini An honest assessment of your finances will help you restructure your spending habits. The changes you make will help you head into the upcoming year with optimism.

Cancer Let your heart guide you when it comes to dealing with loved ones. Pleasing others doesn't have to be costly. Offering help will encourage the same in return.

Leo Plan to make changes that will improve your life, status and direction. Check out what others are doing and learn from the information and research offered.

Virgo Look beyond what's unfolding in front of you. Consider the possibilities and the consequences of making the wrong choice. Trust in your judgment.

Libra Keep moving until you get everything done. You will feel much better if you have made the changes that will give you the freedom to enjoy life, family and friends.

Scorpio A change to the way you earn your living or how you deal with investments or joint ventures will help reconfigure the way you move forward next year.

Sagittarius Dress up your residence and make alterations that will add to your comfort and entertainment. Love and romance are on the rise and will improve your personal life.

Capricorn Being a good listener will give you an advantage. The less anyone knows about you, the easier it will be to execute your plans without interference.

Aquarius Share your opinions and solutions, but not personal information or anything that may affect your reputation or status. Help less fortunate people.

Pisces Trust your instincts, not what someone else tells you. Persuasive tactics will be used if you show vulnerability or inconsistency. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

S	W	A	P	■	K	E	N	Y	A	■	M	A	S	T
P	A	L	I	■	R	E	A	I	R	■	U	S	E	R
E	D	E	N	■	A	R	M	E	D	■	N	I	C	E
W	I	C	K	E	T	■	E	L	O	N	G	A	T	E
■	■	■	I	R	I	S	■	D	R	A	B	■	■	■
A	N	G	E	L	O	U	■	■	■	S	E	A	M	S
R	O	E	■	E	N	D	E	D	■	H	A	B	I	T
R	I	N	D	■	S	A	G	A	N	■	N	A	T	O
O	S	I	E	R	■	N	O	V	A	K	■	S	T	U
W	E	E	P	Y	■	■	■	E	V	E	R	E	S	T
■	■	■	E	E	K	S	■	S	I	R	E	■	■	■
I	R	O	N	S	O	U	T	■	G	R	E	T	E	L
M	O	O	D	■	O	M	A	H	A	■	K	A	Y	O
A	D	Z	E	■	K	A	P	U	T	■	E	X	E	C
N	E	E	D	■	S	C	E	N	E	■	D	I	S	K

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